

Councilmen Flay Railroad for 'Messy' Property

Balk at Fee for Planting

A proposed agreement to lease the Pacific Electric right-of-way so that the city can beautify its eastern entrance bogged down when a majority of the City Council balked at paying \$50 a year to the railroad.

"They've been here 45 years and contributed nothing of beauty. We regulate businesses and home owners, I can't see why the P.E. can't get off the dime and clean up its own mess," declared Councilman George Bradford.

Mayor Albert Isen said he agreed with him, but that the city's entrance had been an eyesore for years, and that by paying money to the transit firm, the city could at last do something to landscape the right-of-way.

But Councilman Nicholas O. Drake pointed out that if the P.E. receives payment for letting the city beautify its property, this might set a precedent for the Santa Fe Railroad.

"Perhaps we can shame them," suggested Councilman Victor Benstead.

The agreement was finally tabled until a council committee can work out a more acceptable deal with the railroad.

Planning Board to Be Cut

An ordinance to reduce the membership of the Planning Commission from nine to seven will be prepared by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier, and if adopted, one of three present commissioners will be squeezed out of office.

By a 5 to 2 vote, the Council ordered the change, with only Councilman Willys Blount and Nicholas O. Drake opposed.

Since the terms of three members, President Bert Lynn, John Mulvihill and Kenneth Uyeda expire Jan. 15, only two of them could be reappointed if the membership is cut. There are presently only eight members with one at vacant.

No appointments are expected to be made until the new ordinance goes into effect, leaving the issue dangling like a time bomb.

Lawndale, Lomita Area Eyed For Annexation to Torrance

City to Hire Prober For Merger Reaction

Torrance is willing to expand its present city limits to annex parts of Lomita and Lawndale, and will hire an investigator to make a survey of desirable land to be merged, the City Council decided informally Tuesday.

"The big city is not going to gobble up unwilling people, but will be receptive to areas that want to come in," Mayor Albert Isen pointed out.

Individual councilmen reported that they knew of areas to the north and east of Torrance that want to annex.

"I'm not interested in whole sale annexations. I want to know what these areas can offer us," asserted Councilman Willys Blount.

Gathering around a map, councilmen informally agreed that parts of Lomita, fronting on the east side of Crenshaw Blvd. would be welcome if they care to join, although they did not appear too interested in Lomita east of Pennsylvania.

Another area which will find the welcome mat stretched out is a portion of Lawndale south of Manhattan Beach Blvd. and including the commercial frontage on Hawthorne and Crenshaw Blvds.

Isen asked that residents of these areas send their comments on how they would feel about becoming part of Torrance. City Manager George Stevens was authorized to hire someone for two months who could investigate desirable areas to be annexed and also determine the desires of the residents of these communities.

Narbonne Problems Aired

Improvements in public transportation, recreation and sidewalks were aired at last Tuesday's meeting of the Narbonne Area Council. The March meeting of the group will be designed to arouse greater community interest.

Action Shelved On Beans

No action will be taken against poisonous landscaping plants by the city as the City Council Tuesday night buried a requested law for the control of castor bean plants.

Regulation of the plant was requested in a petition containing 143 signatures, submitted by Mrs. Vera Kiesler, a North Torrance housewife, on grounds that the beans, if chewed, could cause the death of children.

"Parents have some responsibility," asserted Councilman J. A. Beasley. "Just as they teach children to cross streets when they are clear of autos, they should educate them about these plants."

"Do your youngsters do everything you tell them to do?" asked Mrs. Kiesler.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier explained that only one city in Southern California, Oxnard, has a law to regulate castor bean plants. He said that two children have died from chewing the beans.

"Considering the causes of death to children, castor beans are relatively insignificant," he added. "Oleanders have the worst record."

City officials pointed out that poisonous plants have been placed in city parkways by the city.

Action on the matter was unanimously tabled.



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City Youth Wins Skating Title

Torrance Youth Wins World Skating Title

A Torrance youth today is the world's champion in the men's single free-style division as result of winning the title in international rollerskating competition in New Zealand.

Robert Wollard, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Wollard of 1434 Fern Ave., topped United States and foreign competitors to win the title in the World Championship event last week.

Peggy Tipton, 16, of 1230 Madrid St., won the second place in the ladies free-style skating event to give Torrance a two-victory team.

Wollard's mother points out that her son's victory was the result of good teaching and steady, four-hours a day practice.

The champ started skating at the age of nine, and entered competition at 13.

His parents, while not in competitive skating are also active in the sport and have served as judges in various roller events.

Young Wollard, a Torrance High School graduate, will return Feb. 1, following an exhibition tour, and enroll as a physics major at UCLA. He had intended to register last fall but delayed his studies in order to compete in the international event.

Old City Hall Use Asked

Use of the old City Hall by the Recreation Department and its activities, was requested by Director Harry B. Van Bellehem, Tuesday.

The officials proposed that his department transfer its offices from the new City Hall, and take over the older building as soon as it is no longer needed by the Torrance Municipal Court.

He said that he has received requests to expand the arts and crafts program, now held in the Cravens Ave. building, and pointed out that the old City Council chambers could be remodeled for a Little Theater and meeting room.

Other parts of the building could be used as meeting rooms and for office space, Van Bellehem said.

"For a city of the size of 100,000 population, the old city hall is not too large to consider as a recreation center. . . . Many cities of this size have even larger recreation centers than this," he explained.

The official said the building would make an excellent annex to the Civic Auditorium which he described as rather inflexible.

"Groups smaller than 200 to 300 are lost in the vast area of the auditorium. Many of these smaller groups could be accommodated in the old city hall," Van Bellehem said.

Porpoises Rerouted From City

Six Atlantic porpoises were delivered to Marineland Tuesday, despite a mix-up in which they by-passed Torrance Municipal Airport and instead landed at Los Angeles International.

Each of the 300-pound passengers was whisked off by truck after their flight here from Daytona, Fla.

The porpoises will be swapped for a Pacific whale to be shipped by Marineland.

"We are importing the Atlantic porpoises because they are better show animals than the Pacific variety. We are able to supply a whale to Florida because a method developed by our collecting crew has enabled it to be the only one which has ever captured a whale alive in the open sea," said William F. Monahan, Marineland vice president.

Due to an apparent mixup in instruction the plane which was carrying the porpoises did not put down at the Torrance airfield.

APPROVE APARTMENTS

Approval of site plans for a 116-unit apartment house project on 174th St. west of Yukon Ave. was approved by the City Council last week. Plans for the \$1,100,000 project are now being checked by the building department.



NO NEED TO CRY — By the expression on Dwain Ray Hibdon's face, you might suspect that something terrible has happened to him. But quite to the contrary, the young man was the winner of the Torrance Press "First Baby of '59" contest, entitling his parents to numerous merchandise prizes. The baby was born on New Year's Day. —Press Photo

New Year's Day Baby Boy Wins Press Baby Contest

Aside from bringing the usual joy to his parents, the timely arrival of Dwain Ray Hibdon also netted them numerous merchandise prizes as winners of the Torrance Press "First Baby of '59" contest.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Troy H. Hibdon, who until last week resided at 427 Harbor Hills, Lomita, was declared the winner of the annual contest because of his speedy arrival on New Year's Day.

The 8 pound 1 1/2 ounce baby was delivered at Riviera Hospital at 9:06 a.m. on Jan. 1, according to hospital records.

As the parents of the winning baby, Mr. and Mrs. Hibdon will be entitled to such prizes as baby food, furnishings, clothes, jewelry and portrait.

Prizes are offered by the following merchants: J. J. Newberry, Food King Market, Owl, Rexall, Southwest Savings and Loan, Lawson's Jewelers, Howard Jewelers, Neta's Tots and Teens, Ruth Davis, Torrance Bootery, Photo Arts Studio, Squire Style Shop, Foods Co. Market, Daniel's Cafe, Walters Rexall Drugs, Scottie's Department Store, Liberty Home Appliance, McMahan's Furniture and Gary's Jewelers.

The Hibdons, who last week moved to 1644 Curtis Ave., Manhattan Beach, have another child, Deborah Lynn, 2. The father is employed by Northrop Aircraft as a machinist.

CAR STRIPPED

All four wheels and tires were stripped off William Paul's auto last week while he was working at North American Aviation, 2321 Abalone St. Thieves apparently entered the company parking lot and speedily took off the wheels.

C of C to Honor Air Parts Firm

"Salute to AirResearch" will be the theme of the Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting Jan. 27 at 7:20 a.m. in the American Legion Hall, 1109 Border Ave.

Reid Parkin and Glenn Koger, co-chairmen, said that the Chamber will honor the firm which has purchased 66 acres on 190th St. and will build a plant which employ 5000.

HAWAII TOUR SLATED

Arrangements have been completed with Transocean Air Lines for an eight-day tour of Hawaii, President Fred Mill of the Chamber of Commerce announced. The trip is set for April 3.

Better Bus Service

An Editorial

City officials, who are presently casting around for a Torrance Municipal Bus terminal, might well look into the possibility of using a facility that was built as a transportation terminal.

We are speaking of the Pacific Electric station at 1200 Border Ave., which is at a convenient location in the downtown area and could easily be adapted as a terminal for our commuters.

There is a possibility that the Pacific Electric Co. might be interested in either selling or leasing all or part of the station, and if the price is right, the city could obtain much improved facilities for its passengers.

City Manager George Stevens recently notified the City Council that the city will have to pay an increase in rent if it wants to continue to use the present terminal at Cravens and Cabrillo Aves.

A committee of the Council has been investigating the comparative merits of the present depot, use of the old city hall for such a purpose, or merely using a street loading zone as a terminal.

If the city can work out an agreement with the Pacific Electric, it would be a progressive step to provide for the public transportation needs of the city of 100,000.



WORLD CHAMP—Robert Wollard, 18, of Torrance has won the world championship in men's singles in the International Rollerskating Championships in New Zealand, while Peggy Tipton, 16, also of Torrance, came in second in the women's free skating class.

Carson Postal Petitions Set

Petitions to obtain a new post office branch in the area were distributed at the Tuesday meeting of the Carson Chamber of Commerce at 8 p. m. President John Calas announced.

Winners in the Christmas decoration contest were announced by Jack Henry, chairman of the Chamber-sponsored event.

They are the Carson Fire Station, Blythe Johnson and Ben Cluff.

Three Injured in Auto Collision

Three persons were injured in a two car collision at Hawthorne and Torrance Blvds. Friday.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital were Harry Charles Woodruff, 81, of 4540 W. 161st St., Lawndale, driver of one of the cars, his wife, Elsie, 64, and Karl Carpenter, 2 1/2, of 4440 W. 161st St., Lawndale, police said.

The other machine was operated by Joseph A. Walker, Jr., 22, of 22514 Gaycrest Ave.

Margie's Sad Story Brings Her Cash, Room in Pokey

The sad story told by the young woman touched the hearts of a score of knitting club members meeting in the Torrance Woman's Club Monday afternoon.

She hadn't eaten for 31 hours, and passed out three times because of hunger pains. There was no food for the starving youngsters.

And her husband was so mean that he beat her up on several occasions and threatened to really let her have it if she testified against him.

Refused Coffee Why, things had become so bad that welfare agencies had shunted her around without help. Even the members of a church group were so stonehearted as to refuse her a cup of coffee when she begged them for something to eat.

Touched by the sad story told by the tearful tall blond woman,

members of the knitting club put aside their needles and passed the hat around.

The collection of \$9 was presented to the young woman, who left hastily. In such a hurry, as a matter of fact, that she even forgot to thank her donors for the money.

Police Called But who one of the members observed the young woman head for an automobile she happened to meet a man who was quite dubious about the young lady's plight.

Torrance police were called, and after a few minutes conversation, arrested the young woman.

Booked on a begging charge, she was identified as Margie Dutton, 28, of 15431 Denver St., Gardena, presently on probation for a similar charge.

A search of the "deserted" young woman, revealed that she had not only the recently solicited \$9 in her purse, but another \$117, allegedly obtained from begging.

Police said that same morning, she had solicited for funds at three different churches, telling her audiences her hard luck story.

May Co. Charge Account Form in Today's Press

Readers of the Torrance Press will again have the opportunity to apply for charge accounts at the new May Co. store in the South Bay Shopping Center.

Application forms with which to open charge accounts will be included in a full page advertisement which appears in today's issue on Page 3.

All readers will have to do is clip out, fill in and return the form to the May Co. This convenient way to open charge accounts is offered for the second time by the Torrance Press for readers who might have missed the ad in a previous issue.



EYE ON TARGET—Gerry Day, playing the part of Penelope, portrays a wild tomboy in the Torrance High School senior play, "Every Family Has One," to be presented tomorrow and Saturday. —Press Photo